

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicant respectfully request entry and consideration of this after-final amendment because no new issues requiring additional search and/or consideration are raised by the amendments to Claim 1. More specifically, Claim 1 is being amended to correct a typographical error noted by the Examiner (changing “multi-join” to “multi-joint”), to change the term “application head” to the term “applicator head” for consistency, and to include the subject matter of associated dependent Claims 2 and 3, which are being cancelled, without prejudice. Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of amended independent Claim 1 was previously considered when considering the subject matter of now-cancelled associated dependent Claims 2 and 3. Accordingly, no new issues are raised by the amendment to Claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests entry and consideration of this after-final amendment.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 4,234,372 to Bernhard et al. Claims 3 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the Bernhard et al. reference. Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled, without prejudice, and their subject matter has been added into independent Claim 1. Thus, these rejections are now moot with respect to Claims 2 and 3. However, with respect to Claims 1 and 4, Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Bernhard et al. reference does not disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, the claimed motion of the applicator head at the corners. More specifically, Applicant respectfully submits that the Bernhard et al. reference fails to disclose

or suggest a method of forming a spacer that involves moving the applicator head until it *passes* an intersection A (such as intersection A shown in Applicant's Figure 6), which is beyond the center line (such as center line c2, shown in Applicant's Figure 6), and then *returning* the discharge port to the center line (i.e., having the applicator head backtrack after it has passed the centerline). This feature is defined in amended independent Claim 1 by the newly added language previously found in now-canceled dependent Claim 2.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Bernhard et al. reference does not disclose or suggest such backtracking. Instead, Figures 11a-11h of the Bernhard et al. reference (and the associated text of column 6 (line 13) through column 7 (line 49)) merely disclose that the nozzle 44 is rotated when reaching a corner. Thus, all of the claimed features defined in independent Claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in the Bernhard et al. reference. Accordingly, for at least this reason, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of these rejections of independent Claim 1 and associated dependent Claims 4 and 7.

Additionally, Applicant also respectfully requests the withdrawal of these rejections because the Bernhard et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest a method of forming a space that includes, *inter alia*, a step of rotating the applicator head in each corner region that is performed "such that the movement speed of the applicator head is equal to or lower than a speed corresponding to a rotation speed of the applicator head," as defined in amended independent Claim 1. Instead, the Bernhard et al. reference is silent regarding this feature. Accordingly, for this additional reason, Applicant respectfully requests the

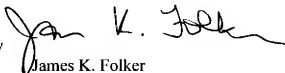
withdrawal of these rejections of independent Claim 1 and associated dependent Claims 4 and 7.

Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the Bernhard et al. reference in view of EP 1236599 (EP '559). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 5 and 6 depend from independent Claim 1, and therefore includes all of the features of Claim 1, plus additional features. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this §103 rejection of dependent Claims 5 and 6 be withdrawn considering the above remarks directed to independent Claim 1, and also because EP '559 does not remedy the deficiencies noted above, nor was it relied upon as such.

For all of the above reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
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